

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, dependent claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form. Further, independent claims 7, 11, and 15 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of original dependent claim 6.

Claims 1-5 and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Matena et al. (US Patent No. 5,860,153), hereafter "Matena." Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is defective because Matena fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention.

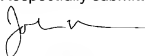
For example, independent claim 1 recites:

"A method for shared cache invalidation, comprising: hashing a key corresponding to an object in a first cache that has been modified or deleted to provide a hashed code of the key, wherein the first cache forms part of a shared cache; transmitting only the hashed code of the key to other caches in the shared cache; comparing the hashed code of the key with entries in the other caches; and dropping any keys in the other caches having a hash code the same as the hashed code of the key."

Regarding independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claims 4, 9 and 13), Matena fails to disclose, *inter alia*, "transmitting **only** the hashed code of the key to other caches in the shared cache; comparing the hashed code of the key with entries in the other caches; and dropping any keys in the other caches having a hash code the same as the hashed code of the key." On the contrary, Matena discloses the transmission of a hash result **and** the size of the provider's bit mask (see, e.g., col. 7, lines 35-45). As such, compared to the present invention, Matena's system has a much higher network bandwidth.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Merecki', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Date:

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